

# LIFESTYLES

HAWAII MARINE B SECTION

FEBRUARY 9, 2007

## Wintertime and the weather is breezy

*Wintertime*

*And the weather is breezy*

*Trees are blowing*

*Wind speeds are high*

*Oh the waves are choppy*

*Strong gusts are fierce looking*

*I said hush little baby*

*Don't you cry.*

**Story and Photos by  
Cpl. Mark Fayloga**

*Combat Correspondent*

The base experienced gusts with an unusual amount of force blowing in from the southwest and accelerating down the slopes of the Koolau mountain range.

The high winds lasted several days, reaching their peak Jan. 31 when they attained speeds up to 59 mph with sustained gusts from 40 to 52 mph during which time the base was under a gale warning, said Chief Warrant Officer Jay R. Brewer, officer-in-charge, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay meteorology and oceanography.

The bullying breezes caused varying amounts of damage base-wide. According to Lee H. Yamamoto, deputy director, Facilities Department, more than 20 facilities suffered some form of damage from the high winds Jan. 31. Among the more significant damage: Hangars 101 and 102 lost portions of their roofs; the Marina's floating piers cracked and separated due to strong wave action.

Damage to other buildings ranged from minor to more significant damage – similar to what Hangars 101 and 102 experienced.

According to Yamamoto, the base

hasn't suffered this much wind damage since January 2004 when severe winds ravaged the base.

"There have been high winds before but nothing I can recall was like last week's storm or the storm of 2004 – at least in the ten years I've been here," said Yamamoto. "In 2004, there was actually a stronger windstorm that caused much more significant damage. Repairs from that damage cost over \$5 million."

Facilities is currently repairing what they can with the resources they have, but some of the larger repairs will need to be contracted by Naval Facilities Engineering Command.

According to Yamamoto, he is coordinating with NavFac so they can expedite repairs. Yamamoto estimates that due to the extent of the damage, repairs will take a few months. He currently has no estimate on what the cost of the repairs will be.

The damaging winds were some of the strongest on the island and were actually assisted by the base's mountain terrain, which had a bottleneck effect on the forceful gales.

"From the reports I saw, we had the strongest winds on Oahu that day," said Brewer. "The wind was unique in that it was terrain-induced. The mountains increased the gradient locally."



A sailboat cut loose from Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay Marina and Outdoor Recreation Center due to unusually windy weather takes a beating on the beach near the base impound lot.



Above: Palm fronds bend to 40- and 50-mph winds.

Right: Powerful winds uprooted several trees on base Jan. 31.



Waters pushed ashore by heavy winds contributed to some of the water damage that was experienced on Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.





Christine Cabalo

Sergeant Robert Wuthrich, aviation electronics technician, Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463, stands in front of a CH-53D Sea Stallion helicopter he maintains at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.



Christine Cabalo

After opening a helicopter’s panel, Sgt. Robert Wuthrich probes its inner gears. The sergeant said he has to reach into cramped spaces when he does repair work to fix components.

# Sergeant keeps helicopters flying

**Christine Cabalo**

*Photojournalist*

Got a good gripe? Sergeant Robert Wuthrich, aviation electronics technician, is up to the challenge of solving aircraft complaints from his unit, Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463.

Wuthrich and his fellow maintenance technicians stationed aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, are responsible for fixing any of the hundreds of components wired inside the squadron’s CH-53D Sea Stallion helicopters.

The 26-year-old native of Kuna, Idaho, said he joined the Corps because he thrives on mental tasks and loves the challenge of solving computer malfunctions.

According to Capt. Conor Overstake, squadron pilot, the sergeant’s maintenance to the helicopters aids in keeping the squadron continually ready for missions.

For example, while “Pegasus” was deployed to Iraq in 2006, Wuthrich logged in 1,620 worker’s hours over seven months. The captain said the technician’s dedication is one of the reasons why he is a quality assurance representative – despite the fact that higher-ranking Marines usually fill that position.

“It didn’t matter what shift he was on in Iraq,” said Overstake. “He would meet us at the aircraft and ask if anything was wrong before we even started filling out the paperwork.”

Wuthrich said he operates by the

motto “Semper Gumby” or always flexible. If he isn’t fixing aircraft, he’s waiting at the ready for problems to come in, said the officer.

The aviation electronics technician said he is used to juggling tasks on the job. With short breaks between tasks, Wuthrich said he spent his time juggling – tasseled sticks.

“We joked about how good he got,” said Gunnery Sgt. Jim Stratton, who worked with the sergeant for more than a year. “We’d say that when everyone got back stateside, we could hire him to perform at our parties.”

During his deployment, Wuthrich said he also mastered other games requiring good hand-eye coordination.

“I never touched a yo-yo until Iraq,” said Wuthrich. “A yo-yo was a perfect time breaker, because you could play and get into it quickly. But you were able to stop what you’re doing at a moment’s notice to go recover aircraft. Yo-yos were a good symbol of what it was like in Iraq, because we had our ups and our downs.”

A third-generation Marine, Wuthrich said his maternal uncle and grandfather set an example of service he tries to follow daily.

“He drives the newer guys hard to do maintenance correctly,” said Stratton. “We had zero maintenance incidents out of the seven months we were in Iraq.”

The sergeant said he takes just as much pride in fixing difficult prob-

lems as he does training other Marines in aircraft maintenance.

“One ‘gripe’ (discrepancy or complaint about an aircraft) had me stumped,” he said. “It turned out to be a corrosion problem, but it was passed to one senior individual and downward. One of my corporals thought outside of the box and solved the problem. It made me feel good that I trained him well and that he was able to fix it.”

Looking toward the future, the sergeant said his plans are to continue working in the Corps and study advanced electronics courses.

Wuthrich said he’s interested in becoming a drill instructor or Marine Security Guard. In the meantime, the sergeant said he’d continue juggling his maintenance responsibilities.

# Petty officer stands out amongst peers

**Lance Cpl. Edward C. deBree**

*Combat Correspondent*

Many service members work hard in order to complete any task that is handed to them. For one Sailor, his hard work paid off.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Brian M. Allen, aviation electronics technician, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 24, Marine Aircraft Group 24, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, was recently named Junior Sailor of the Year for MAG-24 and won the Innovator of the Quarter award for MALS-24 for his effort in helping integrate the new AirSpeed program.

Allen said dealing with the new program just comes as second nature to him.

“I received a bachelor’s degree in organizational management and that sort of tailors to AirSpeed,” said the 28-year-old. “AirSpeed came to me naturally because it has a lot of organizational management to it. They go hand in hand.”

The AirSpeed program is a newly developed system that expedites the process of giving squadrons stationed here the equipment and repair parts they need.

Allen joined the Navy in 1999, after graduating West Chester High School. He said he wanted to go to college after high school but didn’t have the financial support, so he decided to join the military.

He said he made his grandfather proud by following in footsteps and joining the Navy. But part of his decision to join was because he would have the opportunity to travel.

“I got to see my grandfather after boot camp, which was the last time I saw him,” said the Los Angeles native. “He was really proud of me and passed away shortly after. After seeing him, it made my decision feel like I was upholding a tradition.”

Since joining, Allen has been to South Korea, Thailand, Singapore, Guam, Australia, Bahrain, Kosovo and Japan.

Though Allen said he really wanted to become an aviation warfare systems operator when he first enlisted, he’s happy with where he is now.

“There’s not one thing that I would take back,” he said. “I met my wife since I joined, and I wouldn’t have met her if I wasn’t where I was.”

Allen said he is leaning toward retiring from the Navy, but not before he puts in a package to

become a commissioned officer. He wants to be an officer because he thinks he can make a positive influence on junior Sailors.

For now, Allen is making a big impact on the AirSpeed program, using what he has learned from his organizational management schooling. A degree he obtained because he was interested in “the big picture” and making an impact on whole organization. That, he said, is why he volunteered to help with the AirSpeed program.

“He’s a great worker,” said Petty Officer 1st Class Heather Valyou, leading petty officer, MALS-24. “He always volunteers for the hardest tasks. He volunteered for AirSpeed. He stands above everybody else.”

“He always makes sure he is getting his job done correctly,” she added. “He’s an original when it comes

to being motivated. Not a lot of people in the Navy are like him nowadays.”

Allen doesn’t just volunteer for the hardest assignments at work, he also volunteers his off-duty time in the surrounding community by helping organizations

such as the Special Olympics and Habitat for Humanity.

“It’s good to help out people who need help,” said Allen. “I think it should be everybody’s duty to get out there and help the community.

“I enjoy my lifestyle of volunteering when I can. When I volunteer for things, such as the Special Olympics and Habitat for Humanity, just the smiles on these people’s faces alone is rewarding enough for me.”



Lance Cpl. Edward C. deBree

Petty Officer 2nd Class Brian M. Allen, aviation electronics technician, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 24, Marine Aircraft Group 24, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, and Vice Adm. Walter B. Massenburg, commander, Naval Air Systems Command, hold Allen’s award for Innovator of the Quarter. Allen received the award for receiving his black belt in the AirSpeed program and for modifying the process of the program. Allen was also recently named Junior Sailor of the Year for MALS-24.



Lance Cpl. Edward C. deBree

Petty Officer 2nd Class Brian M. Allen, aviation electronics technician, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 24, is primarily responsible for fixing equipment designated for the patrol aircraft, P3 "Orion," pictured in the background. Allen was recently named Junior Sailor of the Year for his squadron and won the Innovator of the Quarter for MALS-24.



# Movie review: ‘The Departed’



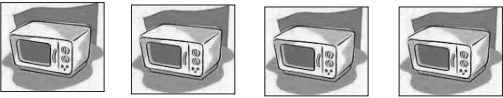
Cpl. Ryan Trevino  
Community Relations Chief

Editor's note: Each week Hawaii Marine's own film critic Cpl. Ryan Trevino will provide readers with in-depth reviews and unbiased ratings of a film currently in theaters or one of the many classics of yesterday.

The rating system requires some explanation before you get started. If the film being reviewed is currently available for rent or purchase it will be assigned a certain number of “microwaves” on a scale of one to four to rate its “reheat factor.”

If the film being reviewed is in theaters, it will be assigned a certain number of service stripes on a scale from one to four.

In other words, the more microwaves or service stripes the film receives, the better and more entertaining it is to watch.



Reheat score: 4 out of 4 microwaves

Arriving in stores Feb. 13, Martin Scorsese's "The Departed" is a must buy for anyone who enjoys watching intense crime dramas that actually serve a moral purpose.

Its highly anticipated release on DVD is only comparable in popularity to that of last year's "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest."

Pre-orders for this film are through the roof, and it probably wouldn't be a bad idea for you to go ahead and put your money down in advance, unless you like waiting a couple of days for the

store to re-up on copies after they sell out their original run.

Nabbing five Oscar nominations, including Achievement in Directing and Motion Picture of the Year, “The Departed” has all the key ingredients to become one of those classic Scorsese films like “Goodfellas” and "Raging Bull."

It's a gritty, low-down portrayal of deception, and the constant struggle between good and evil.

If you like big-name casts, then this is your movie. Leo DiCaprio, Mark Wahlberg, Jack Nicholson, and Matt Damon are among the most prominent faces in the crowd.

I guess everybody just wants to do a Scorsese film during his career at least once.

The all-star cast is a bit too much for me though. In my opinion, this movie would have been better if a bunch of no-names were used for the lead roles, except for Nicholson of course.

If I had it my way, good ol’ Jack should play a role in every movie ever made during his time.

His talents still provide the framework for every project he works on, and his performance in "The Departed" is no different.

Quite frankly, I'm surprised to not see his name anywhere on the Oscar nominations list this year, but I'm sure he's over it by now, because he probably doesn't even have a place to put another one.

Adapted from a Hong Kong film call "Infernal Affairs," "The Departed" centers on two cops tied to the underground Mafioso world deep in the heart of Boston.

One cop, Costigan (Dicaprio), is sent deep undercover to infiltrate the ranks of a hard-hitting criminal organization run by Frank Costello (Nicholson).

On the other hand, Nicholson sends one of his own to join the boys in blue, so he has the advantage of a man on the inside.

As you might have guessed, this leads to some confusion between all the characters regarding who’s on whose side. Action ensues, and the rest is history.

Mark this film down as one of the best of 2006, if not the best.

Pick it up the day it comes out to add to the DVD collection.

# Marines in blue to play the blues at Hawaiian jazz festival

Lance Cpl. R. Drew Hendricks  
U.S. Marine Forces, Pacific

**MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP H. M. SMITH, Hawaii** — The U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific Band has been invited to jive with locally and internationally renowned musicians at the 14th Annual Hawaii International Jazz Festival at the Windward Community College Great Lawn, Honolulu, Sunday.

Nineteen members of the band have been selected to perform as the MarForPac Big Band in this festival, which is one of Hawaii Tourism Authority’s 11 major festivals.

“All the major players from around Hawaii are going to be there,” said Sgt. Wilson Bautista, Big Band leader. “I’m pretty excited about this opportunity.”

The Big Band consists of a brass and rhythm section as well as all the saxophonists from the MarForPac Band.

The festival, voted the “Event of The Year” in 2004 by the Hawaiian Music Awards, features nearly every style of Jazz including

blues, big band swing, Latin, smooth jazz, and other contemporary styles.

“If you’re looking for something different, this is a perfect opportunity to expand your musical horizons,” said Bautista, a native of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. “It definitely won’t be boring.”

Bautista said this event is also a great opportunity for his band to practice a style of music they rarely get to perform.

“We get to play with these guys who have been playing their whole lives,” said Bautista, who has been playing the piano for 20 years. “We get to share our music with others just like they do.”

The Marines were informed of the event about two months ago, and, while their usual duty of playing ceremonial music has not been put aside, they have still managed to squeeze in practice for the festival. In the past two weeks, they have practiced only six times, but starting the week of Jan. 29, they have been practicing every day.

Not only is this concert an opportunity for those in

the community to see the MarForPac Band play, it's a time for the Marines to have a little fun.

“It's great, because it's an opportunity to get out there and do something different,” said Cpl. Brad Erdman, a trumpeter. “It will give people a different perspective on what a military band can do.”

The Hawaii International Jazz Festival is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing cultural enrichment to Hawaii residents and visitors.

“It's a chance to hear something other than the same old rock ‘n’ roll and R&B,” said Erdman, a Baltimore native.

Bautista and Erdman agree that this festival has a little bit of something for everyone.

“(The festival) offers a solid, old style of music with a mix of local flavor,” said Bautista. “I encourage people to come out and enjoy the show.”

The festival and parking are free. The MarForPac Big Band is scheduled to perform about noon. The festival lasts from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m.

## ON THE MENU

AT ANDERSON HALL

Friday

Lunch

Oven roast beef

Baked tuna & noodles

Steamed rice

French fried cauliflower

Vegetable combo

Brown gravy

Chilled horseradish

Banana coconut cream pie

Chocolate chip cookies

Carrot cake

Cream cheese frosting

Vanilla/chocolate cream pudding

Lime/strawberry gelatin

Specialty bar: Southern meal

Dinner

Sauerbraten

Baked knockwurst w/sauerkraut

Scalloped potatoes

Noodles Jefferson

Green beans w/mushrooms

Creole summer squash

Brown gravy

Desserts: Same as lunch

Saturday

Dinner

Grilled T-bone steak

Pork chops Mexicana

Mashed potatoes

Spanish rice

Mexican corn

Peas & mushrooms

Brown gravy

Cheesecake w/cherry topping

Fruit nut bars

Chocolate/vanilla cream pudding

Lemon/lemon gelatin

Yellow cake

Sunday

Dinner

Beef pot pie

Baked ham

Baked macaroni & cheese

Club spinach

Cauliflower au gratin

Cream gravy



Bread pudding w/lemon sauce

Vanilla cream pie

Vanilla cookies

Pineapple upside-down cake

Vanilla/chocolate cream pudding

Strawberry/orange gelatin

Monday

Lunch

Teriyaki chicken

Salisbury steak

Mashed potatoes

Steamed rice

Simmered carrots

Simmered lima beans

Brown gravy

Pumpkin pie

Chocolate cookies

Easy choc. cake w/chocolate butter cream frosting

Vanilla/chocolate cream pudding

Strawberry/strawberry gelatin

Specialty bar: Pasta

Dinner

Roast turkey

Oven roast beef

Pork fried rice

Parsley buttered potatoes

Green beans w/mushrooms

Simmered corn

Brown gravy

Pumpkin pie

Chocolate cookies

Easy choc. cake w/chocolate butter cream frosting

Vanilla/chocolate cream pudding

Strawberry/strawberry gelatin

Tuesday

Lunch

Sweet Italian sausage

Veal parmesan

Cheese ravioli

Spaghetti noodles

Simmered asparagus

Italian blend vegetables

Meat sauce

Strawberry glazed cream pie

Brownies

Devil's food cake w/mocha butter-cream frosting

Vanilla/chocolate cream pudding

Cherry/lime gelatin

Specialty bar: Taco

Dinner

Swiss steak with tomato sauce

Lemon baked fish

Lyonnaisse potatoes

Steamed rice

Southern style green beans

Vegetable combo

Brown gravy

Desserts: Same as lunch

Wednesday

Lunch

Baked ham

Chili macaroni

Candied sweet potatoes

Grilled cheese sandwich

French fried okra

Cauliflower au gratin

Pineapple sauce

Bread pudding w/lemon sauce

Peanut butter brownie

Banana cake w/butter cream frosting

Vanilla/chocolate cream pudding

Orange/raspberry gelatin

Specialty bar: Hot dog & sausage

Dinner

Baked stuffed pork chops

Turkey pot pie

Calico corn

Simmered peas & carrots

Steamed rice

Mashed potatoes

Brown gravy

Desserts: same as lunch

Thursday

Lunch

Cantonese spareribs

Baked tuna & noodles

Shrimp fried rice

Corn on the cob

Club spinach

Corn bread dressing

Brown gravy

Lemon chiffon pie

Snickers-doodle cookies

German chocolate cake

Vanilla/chocolate cream pudding

Lime/strawberry gelatin

Specialty bar: Deli

Dinner

Swedish meatballs

Caribbean chicken breast

Steamed rice

Paprika butter potatoes

Simmered brussel sprouts

Simmered summer squash

Chicken gravy

Desserts: Same as lunch

# Community event:

## Sepulveda Cat Club show to take place

See fancy felines from around the state as they compete and earn awards at the Sepulveda Cat Club cat show Feb. 17 at the Ala Wai Golf Course Clubhouse, 404 Kapahulu Ave., Honolulu. Show hours are 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Competing at this show will be purebred and household cats judged buy four judges who will rank them and present them with awards. Spectators will have an opportunity to see the cats “up close and purr-sonal” while they wait to be judged. Admission is \$4 for adults and \$3 for children and seniors.

## MARINE MAKEPONO

HAWAIIAN FOR “MARINE BARGAINS”

AUTOS

**2006 Pontiac Solstice.** \$20,000 firm. 12,000 miles, fully loaded convertible, air conditioning, leather seats, MP3/CD, five-speed transmission, custom flowmaster exhaust, 18-inch rims. Paid \$30,000 one year ago. Call (415) 902-4392.

**2002 Volkswagen Jetta.** 80,000 miles; black; new tires, fuel pump and filter; \$7,000 or best offer. Call 479-721-5934.

MOTORCYCLES

**2006 Honda CR-85 Dirtbike.** Barely ridden, super condition. Leaving island. Gear included. \$3,000 OBO. Call 265-4457.

MISC.

**Queen-size blonde maple bed.** Comes with mattress and nightstand. \$200, OBO. All gently used. Call 664-3385.

**Extra long silver party table,** \$25. Solid wood desk with four drawers, excellent condition, \$50. Blue Power Wheels Jeep, like new with battery and charger, \$60. Tan two-seater Power Wheels with two batteries and charger, \$60. Sand and water table, \$20. Round kitchen table, \$25. 92 cubic feet storage shed \$150. All prices negotiable. Call 254-9363.

YARD SALE

**Many great items.** Feb. 17 from 7 a.m. to noon at 6244B Kaawa St. on Marine Corps Base

Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

**Huge moving sale.** Feb. 17 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 926 Wanaao Road. Furniture, plants, bikes, lawn care items, tools, pageant gowns, household items, toys, and much more. Call 263-4113 for more information.

Ads are accepted from active duty and retired military personnel, their family members and MCB Hawaii civil service employees.

Ads are free and will appear in two issues of Hawaii Marine, on a space-available basis.

Forms may be filled out Monday through Friday between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at the MCB Hawaii Public Affairs Office located in Building 216 aboard Marine Corps Base, Kaneohe Bay.

# MOVIE TIME

**Prices:** Friday and Saturday 7:15 p.m., shows are \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children. Sunday matinee is shown at 2 p.m. Shows are \$2 for adults and \$1 for children. Evening showings on Sunday and Wednesday are at 6:30 p.m. and late shows are shown Friday and Saturday at 9:45 p.m. Cost is \$2 for adults and \$1.50 for children.

For ticket pricing, the Base Theater Box Office defines an adult as a patron 12 and older and defines a child as a patron from 6 to 11. Children 5 and younger are admitted free of charge. Parents must purchase tickets for R-rated movies in person at the box office for children 16 and younger. Patrons must present their military identification card when purchasing tickets. Call 254-7642 for recorded information.

**Sneak Preview Policy:** One hour and 45 minutes prior to the movie, tickets will be issued to first priority patrons waiting in line, then second and third priority patrons.

In an effort to prevent piracy, the following security measures will be enforced on base for sneak preview screenings: bag checks, confiscation of cameras or cell phones with picture taking capability (items will be returned after screening), magnetometer wand, audience scanning with night vision goggles during screening.

The Base Theater and film companies thank you in advance for your cooperation and hope you will enjoy the show. For recorded information, call the Base Theater at 254-7642.

Rocky Balboa (PG)  
The Good Shepherd (R)  
The Pursuit of Happyness (PG13)  
Apocalypto (R)  
Charlotte's Web (G)  
The Good Shepherd (R)  
Rocky Balboa (PG)  
Night at the Museum (PG)  
Black Christmas (R)

Today at 7:15 p.m.  
Today at 9:45 p.m.  
Saturday at 6:30 p.m.  
Saturday at 9:45 p.m.  
Sunday at 2:00 p.m.  
Sunday at 6:30 p.m.  
Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.  
Friday at 7:15 p.m.  
Friday at 9:45 p.m.



# Advice for individual augmentees revisited

**Lissa Ann Wohltmann**  
*LIFELines*

Petty Officer 2nd Class William Villas isn't used to being saluted. Yet, this is what happened to him more than once while stationed with other branches of the service in Afghanistan. Since the Navy enlisted collar devices have eagles on them, other service members thought he was a colonel.

“It took a while to get people to stop saluting,” he joked.

Villas, an aviation maintenance administrationman, is an individual augmentee serving in

an Army civil affairs company as the information management officer. He volunteered for this assignment because he said he needed more of a challenge.

“I was looking for a change of pace,” he said.

And a change of pace is what he got. Transforming to the Army way of life was Villas’ biggest challenge.

“I think some of the difficulties that myself and the rest of the Navy augmentees have had to face have been adjusting to the Army way of life,” he admitted. He and his shipmates have had to struggle with learning the Army

rank system, terms and customs. Learning the officer ranks was a lot easier than that of enlisted because officer ranks are the same with most of the other military branches.

The enlisted rank structure changes with just about every service.

He has had to educate most soldiers about his own petty officer rate. “We (have had) to stop and explain to most soldiers that we petty officers are in fact enlisted and not colonels,” Villas said about he and his shipmates.

The biggest difficulty he and other augmentees endured

included their specific posts. “There are a lot of Sailors who have been placed in jobs that they either did not volunteer for and/or have not (been) properly trained,” he explained.

Case in point is Villas’ own job with information management. He said that this job would have been better suited for an information systems technician.

Yet, he understands everyone can’t get exactly what he or she wants.

“We are here to do a job. We are here to augment the Army and support the Afghan people,” he stated matter-of-factly. “If this

is what they need us to do, then so be it.”

The great part of the job is working with all the coalition forces, learning a little of the languages and about their cultures.

“In the directorate I work in,” he said, “there is Canadian, Romanian, English, Polish and Albanian.”

He hasn’t been stationed with this Army civil affairs unit very long, and this is his first deployment, so he isn’t sure if this is Navy standard operating procedure or not.

His advise to future augmentees is to be flexible, he said laughing, “And ‘Semper Gumby.’”

## Task Force Individual Augmentation continues work to improve process

**Navy Lt. Justin Cole**  
*Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs*

Rear Admiral Sonny Masso chaired a Task Force Individual Augmentation meeting that was aimed at further improving the IA process and reviewing current policies and initiatives.

Masso, who has led TFIA since its inception, directed the review of the entire IA process to include detailing, training, and benefits for Sailors and their families of both the reserve and active components.

The review was part of a periodic assessment to ensure that procedures previously put in place were having the desired outcome for the Sailors affected by them.

“We were stood up in April of 2006 to do three things,” said Masso. “First, we took a look at the sourcing and notification process. Then we took a look at the training pipeline to get our Sailors ready to go into harms way. Finally, we wanted to make sure we were taking care of the families of those who were serving as IAs and make sure they knew how much we valued their service.”

The program is made up of senior officers and enlisted personnel from various commands who have a stake in the IA process.

Members of Naval Expeditionary Combat Command, Fleet Forces Command, Navy Personnel Command, and the Chief of Naval Personnel contribute to the task force.

“The ultimate goal of the task force is to work ourselves out of a job. If we are able to get these processes ingrained into the way we do business on a daily basis, then the task force would no longer be needed. I would consider that a big success for us and a bigger success for the IA’s,” said Masso.

Recent meetings of the task force have focused on establishing initiatives aimed at taking care of the Sailor’s families and careers.

Award points, duty preference, and advancement exam flexibility were some of the initiatives announced in NAVADMN 273/06.

The original message, according to Masso, was not meant to be the final word, but rather a starting point.

“The initiatives have been in place for several months and we have gotten some good feedback from the Fleet,” said Masso. “We want to keep reviewing the process and the incentives we are offering to the Sailors taking these jobs to make sure we really are doing the right thing by them. If there is a way to improve the process, we owe it to everyone to look into that.”

Following the TFIA conference a list of proposals was generated to modify and add certain incentives to IA’s. These initiatives will be announced in the coming weeks.

“We want to make sure that we don’t exclude one Sailor who is doing this important duty and legitimately deserves these incentives,” said Masso.

Since TFIA stood up last year, NECC and Expeditionary Combat Readiness Command have also come online as the one-stop source for IA and family readiness issues.

NECC integrates all warfighting requirements for expeditionary combat and combat support elements.

This transformation allows for standardized training, manning and equipping of Sailors who will participate in maritime security operations and the global war on terrorism as part of the joint force.

They are involved in every aspect of an IA’s professional development as they get ready to deploy, but are also the source for family information.

While the IA process continues to become more familiar to Navy personnel on a daily basis, Masso says it is TFIA who deserves much of the credit for its success.

“I have never been more proud of a group of people in my life,” he said. “From the very beginning, they broke down the processes that bound the way we did business for years. They rewrote the book on getting results in a timely manner and they did it all while asking themselves only one question – ‘What is the right thing to do for these Sailors?’”

## Tips for being financially ready for your new baby?

**Pamela L. Wilkins**  
*LIFELines*

So, you're having a baby. Congratulations!

You are truly blessed to experience the gift of parenthood. It can be very rewarding and challenging as well.

You have probably been warned about the 2 a.m. feedings, colic, and diaper rashes.

And you've probably decorated the nursery, chosen a name, and even picked the preschool you hope to send your child to.

However, have you taken the most important step of all? Have you prepared your finances for your new baby?

If not, start now.

Did you know that it costs \$1.45 million to raise a child from birth through college? Parenting is very expensive.

The expenses of having a baby include childcare, food, clothes, diapers, healthcare, cribs, walkers, car seats, and college savings. (Don't put off saving for college. Your money will grow if you start now.) Expenditures quickly add up, making a need for a small nest egg essential.

Your immediate finances are also affected with the arrival of a baby.

Who will be the primary caregiver?

Will one of you become a stay-home parent?

Can you survive on one income?

If not, how will you pay for childcare?

How will this affect your income?

According to the USDA, it costs \$2,840 annually to

feed a baby.

You can save a portion of this amount by breastfeeding.

Many physicians agree that breast milk is healthier for babies.

Whether you breastfeed or not, you may qualify for the Woman, Infants, & Children program. This can be a big help to your food budget.

In the WIC program, you receive free cereal, milk, cheese, eggs, baby formula, etc.

You can stretch your dollars further by shopping at thrift shops for baby clothing.

Save more by creating a clothing swap with your friends and neighbors, in which you exchange your used baby clothing for other second-hand clothes that your child needs.

The Navy-Marine Corp Relief Society offers thrift shops, budgetary counseling, and a baby layette program.

Another way to cut costs is to create a babysitting co-op with your friends and neighbors.

You offer to sit for other families within the co-op for a specific amount of time, in return, they do the same for you.

Babysitting co-ops can lower childcare expenses, give parents the opportunity to socialize, and foster community spirit.

If you want to save even more, consider using cloth diapers.

You can wash and reuse them or you can have a diaper service.

Both ways are cheaper than disposables.

If you don't like the idea of cloth diapers, then save by buying diapers in bulk. You can never have too many.

Here are more tips to help keep your finances in order when the baby arrives:

-Save \$20 in a jar for every week of your pregnancy. By delivery, you will have a tidy sum stashed away.

-If you want to become a stay-home mother or father, do a test run first. Cut expenses and live on one income. Save the other. You will see firsthand what it is like to have one income.

-Pay off your debts. Credit cards can be detrimental to your financial health. The National Foundation for Credit Counseling has information on debt and personal finance.

You can also reach The National Foundation for Credit Counseling at (800)-388-2227.

-Start saving for college now.

-Finally, save 10 percent of your monthly pay for emergencies.

As a parent, you will not only be responsible for yourself, but for a helpless infant as well.

Financial preparation allows you to relax and enjoy the blessed event.



# Corpsmen, Marines save lives in western Al Anbar

**Cpl. Luke Blom**  
*2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Division*

**HADITHA, Iraq** — When Sgt. Nathaniel Tatum heard a loud “boom” while on a security patrol through the windswept streets of this Euphrates River city, he didn’t think about how to react to the improvised explosive device blast – he simply let the training take over.

After two Marines were wounded in an IED blast Jan. 18, Tatum and fellow Marines, along with the squad’s hospital corpsman, whom the Marines call “Doc,” provided immediate medical attention to the injured Marines. These Marines would have been in bad shape without their attention, according to Petty Officer 1st Class Patrick W. Horgan, independent duty corpsman with the Hawaii-based 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment.

While providing life-saving medical attention is business-as-usual for corpsmen, the medical experience for the average Marine is often limited to the basic first-aid courses received in recruit training. However, Tatum and a group of approximately 100 Marines from the battalion attended a Combat Lifesaver Course while training in California in June 2006.

In the CLC, corpsmen teach the Marines how to handle a casualty until a corpsman or medical officer is able to tend to the wounded. Throughout the course, Marines were taught how to apply a tourniquet, treat various wounds, administer an IV, recognize and treat shock, control blood loss, and taught the anatomy of ballistic injuries.

“This (Combat Lifesaver Course) is probably some of the most important training a Marine can receive before deploying to a combat zone,” said Petty Officer 3rd Class Philip Oppliger, corpsman with Echo Company. “Ideally, a corpsman is always going to be there when someone goes down, but that’s not always possible.”

Each squad of 10 to 14

Marines employs a corpsman, but when the squad has multiple casualties, the Marines often give each other initial medical care, according to Tatum.

When Tatum saw two Marines injured after an IED detonated, he knew the corpsman needed help treating the wounded Marines.

Within seconds of the blast, Tatum was applying a tourniquet and assessing the wounds of one of the wounded. By the time the squad corpsman was able to reach the wounded Marine, Tatum had already checked the Marine’s vital signs and applied a tourniquet to the injured Marine’s leg and stopped the bleeding.

“All I saw was a Marine in my squad, my friend, laying on the ground,” said Tatum, who received a concussion in the blast. “The first thought I had wasn’t if he was OK or not, it was to get a tourniquet on him and stop the bleeding. There wasn’t really time to think, the training just took over.”

While the corpsman continued to treat the wounded Marine, Tatum ran over to the other wounded Marine who was being treated by a fellow Marine.

“I was a little dazed after the blast, but when I saw (the wounded Marine), I ran over to him and applied a tourniquet on his leg as fast as I could,” said Lance Cpl. William R. Hussey, infantryman and 19-year-old from Baltimore.

While both Marines sustained significant injuries, the immediate medical treatment from fellow Marines and the corpsman likely saved their lives, according to Horgan, a 36-year-old from Aurora, Colo.

“The treatment these Marines received at the scene in the few minutes following the blast was crucial,” said Horgan. “When we (corpsmen) can rely on Marines to provide effective medical treatment when a corpsman is unavailable it makes our job easier, but more importantly it increases the survivability of the Marines.”

When a Marine or Sailor is wounded in combat, a chain



Cpl Luke Blom

**Petty Officer 3rd Class Philip Oppliger, hospital corpsman and 22-year-old from Bend, Ore., treated the wounds of a Marine who was injured in an improvised explosive device blast Jan. 18. Oppliger and the corpsmen of the Hawaii-based 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, are credited with saving the lives of dozens of Marines and Sailors since they arrived in Haditha four months ago.**

of events is set in motion designed to get the wounded service member as stable as possible while getting him to a medical facility where he can be thoroughly treated as fast as possible. This window of time is seldom more than 10 minutes.

“Usually we only have five to seven minutes to work on him before he gets CasEvac’d (Casualty Evacuation – put on a helicopter bound for the nearest medical facility),” said Horgan. “Sometimes it can get kind of chaotic.”

The list of treatments performed by corpsmen in their five- to seven-minute window is staggering; stop the bleeding, clear the airway and regulate breathing, apply IV’s, assess multiple wounds, apply bandages and splints and provide medication among numerous other tasks.

With so many things to accomplish in such a short period of time, someone who’s never seen a corpsman in action might assume this process would be hectic. To the contrary, the “Docs” are trained to keep their cool

under pressure.

“When things go down, you’ve got to pause and take a breath and quickly evaluate the situation,” said Oppliger, a 22-year-old from Bend, Ore. “You say to yourself, ‘OK. We’re taking fire from this direction. I’ve got my bag, and there’s the patient.’ Then you start running.”

Keeping cool is one of the most important tools in the corpsman’s bag for a couple reasons, according to Horgan.

“If you’re calm and collected about the situation, it creates a calmer environment,” said Horgan. “You’re able to provide better care when you’re calm and everything just runs a lot smoother, which ultimately increases the survivability of the patient.”

The other reason according to Horgan is that keeping cool is contagious.

The other Marines and onlookers see their calm and collected reaction, and it instills confidence that everything that can be done is being done.

While the corpsmen are



Cpl Luke Blom

**Petty Officer 1st Class Patrick W. Horgan, independent duty corpsman and 36-year-old from Aurora, Colo., heads up the Medical Aid Station in Haditha. The Hawaii-based corpsmen are equipped to handle a myriad of combat injuries at the MAS.**

trained in medical procedures from the time they enter the U.S. Navy, they feel safer knowing that should they become a casualty, Marines like Tatum who have gone through the CLC

are on hand to provide medical care, according to Oppliger.

“Making sure the Marines know some combat medical stuff is our way of saving our own lives.”

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# Air Wing reaches deployment's end

**Cpl. James B. Hoke**  
*3rd Marine Aircraft Wing*

**AL ASAD, Iraq** — In the early months of 2006, Marines stationed on the West Coast boarded a plane headed to the desert lands of the Middle East. The deployment was to be a year in the western Al Anbar Province of Iraq.

Now that the calendar has flipped and it is now 2007, the service members with 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward) finally get to look back on their accomplishments from their deployment's end.

"Third (Marine Aircraft Wing) (Fwd) has provided all six functions of aviation support to Multi-National Forces West," said Lt. Col. Eric Steidl, operations officer, 3rd MAW (Fwd). "For our year here, this has been in support of I Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward) combat operations."

Through more than 150,000 sorties, the aviation element of the MAW (Fwd) has flown about 100,000 hours, carrying and transporting more than 230,000 personnel and 75 million pounds of cargo.

The Wing has provided rotary-wing and fixed-wing close air support to three regimental-sized units and two Iraqi divisions. It has also maintained a state of readiness to support raids, named operations, 24-hour

casualty evacuations and medical evacuations, aerial refueling and battlefield circulation across the area of operations.

Detachment Marine Air Control Group 38 (Reinforced) has provided aviation command and control for the entire MEF battle space, supplying liaison elements with the Combined Forces Air Component Command, I MEF (Fwd) and Regimental Combat Teams.

Maintaining four airfields and numerous landing zones, Marine Wing Support Group 37 (Reinforced) afforded a great deal of non-traditional support to the I MEF (Fwd) in the form of explosive ordnance disposal, motor transportation and security.

"Our mission here has gone very well," said Col. Scott E. Kerchner, chief of staff, 3rd MAW (Fwd), a native of Bedford, Ohio. "Even though the Air Combat Element is part of the Marine Air Ground Task Force, it's also self-sustaining. We're responsible for our base security, the route clearance for our convoys traveling between the Forward Operating Bases and more; not just the jets and helicopters, but also the ground support. It's a total package."

Although the Wing provides support to combat operations and lacks both the mission and opportunity to communicate with the locals on a regular basis, they are responsible for saving



Lance Cpl. Edward C. deBree

**The first full CH-53D Sea Stallion squadron to deploy in more than 10 years, Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463 from Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, came to Al Asad, Iraq, to serve with the 3rd Marine Air Wing (Forward). Another of the Hawaii-based squadrons to serve in Iraq with the Wing is Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 363, which was assigned to Marine Aircraft Group 16 (Reinforced), 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward).**

the lives of many Iraqis.

"Our interactions with Iraqi people are limited when compared to that of the Marines patrolling outside the wire," said Steidl, a University of Washington graduate. "However, things like medical-evacuation support have a direct impact on them, as we have flown the injured to medical treatment facilities."

Throughout the year-long deployment, 3rd MAW (Fwd) has had many pages filed in the history books.

The first full CH-53D Sea Stallion squadron to deploy in more than 10 years, Marine

Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463 from Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, came to Al Asad, Iraq, to serve with the 3rd MAW (Fwd). Another Marine squadron, Marine Wing Support Squadron 274 of MCAS Cherry Point, N.C., deployed as a whole for the first time since Operation Desert Shield.

Marine Fighter Attack

Squadron 251 joined the Wing from Carrier Air Group 12 to help with combat operations for a few months. Later, the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) offered its help in the same manner, providing Marines, aircraft, maintenance, logistics, and more.

The Marines with 3rd MAW (Fwd) have also worked hand-in-hand with soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 224th Aviation Regiment of the Virginia Army National Guard for the first time in history.

"The Marine Corps is making history every day ... 3rd MAW (Fwd) is part of that history," said Steidl, a native of Idaho Falls, Idaho. "Whether that be integrating Army units or carrier squadrons into our operations, coordinating and integrating new units and systems into the battle space or developing and refining tactics, techniques and procedures as we adapt to the ever-changing battlefield. It was all in support of our mission. We are all involved in something of tremendous importance to our nation, a task that we do not take lightly.

"For 231 years, the Marines have been setting the standard," Steidl continued. "That standard is one we strive to achieve every day, not so we can live up to the legacy of the Marines who came before us, but rather for those who follow us, our families and our country."

As the bags are being packed and loaded and 3rd MAW (Fwd)'s deployment draws to a close, the Marines and other service members, who gave a year of their life and more to serve their country in time of war, can look back on their time there and know that it wasn't wasted.

"Tom Brokaw wrote a book about America's greatest generation ... they rose to the task and set the stage for the liberties, freedoms, and quality of life we enjoy today," concluded Steidl. "Well, the Marines, Sailors and soldiers of 3rd MAW (Fwd) are doing the same thing today. Without them and their dedication to completing the task our generation is presented with, our future will have a different outcome. Yes, I am privileged to serve with the finest our country has to offer."